

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 20 have been amended.

In the Office Action under reply, claims 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reuss (U.S. Patent No. 7,376,123). With respect to Applicant's claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claim 16 has been amended to better define Applicant's invention. More particularly, amended claim 16 recites a service provision method, comprising: acquiring before shipment of a terminal apparatus a host address of the terminal apparatus as connected to a first network; acquiring owner information of the terminal apparatus; acquiring a network address of a second network in accordance with the acquired owner information from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the terminal apparatus; acquiring after shipment of the terminal apparatus, when a signal is transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to the second network, an IPv6 address of a sending side included in the signal transmitted from the terminal apparatus; determining the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before shipment of the terminal apparatus to coincide with lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted signal and the network address of the second network acquired from the database in accordance with the acquired owner information to coincide with higher-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted signal; and providing a service, via the Internet, to the terminal apparatus via the second network. Independent apparatus claim 20 has been similarly amended. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

In accordance with the present invention, as recited in Applicant's independent claim 16, a second network address of a second network is acquired from a database in accordance

with owner information of a terminal apparatus. In addition, the present invention is characterized in that a host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before shipment of the terminal apparatus is determined to coincide with the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address included in a signal transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to the second network, and the network address of the second network address is determined to coincide with higher-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address included in the signal transmitted from the terminal apparatus connected to the second network. These features of the present invention are not disclosed in the cited prior art.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Reuss discloses Applicant's recited feature of acquiring a network address of the second network in col. 7, lines 50-55 (Office Action, page 3, lines 3-6). This section in Reuss states:

"In one embodiment, each call center asset is shipped from the manufacturer with its own electronic serial number, which is mappable to a globally unique network address such as an IP address. The asset may then be accessed from anywhere on a network, such as the Internet, via this address."

From this description in Reuss, it is clear that this reference teaches that the network address can be acquired without any information concerning the owner of the asset, and there is no other discussion in Reuss that would suggest otherwise. Hence, Reuss neither discloses nor suggests the feature of the present invention of "acquiring a network address of a second network in accordance with the acquired owner information from a database storing the network address of the second network and the owner information of the terminal apparatus," as recited in Applicant's claim 16.

Still further, the Examiner asserted that Reuss discloses Applicant's claimed feature of determining the host address of the terminal apparatus (Office Action, page 3, lines 9-12). In

particular, the Examiner referred to col. 7, lines 55-67 and col. 14, lines 11-16 of Reuss for disclosing such feature. But these sections in Reuss only disclose that the echoed message is compared against the database of all of the network devices, and Reuss is completely silent with respect to comparing either the higher-order 64 bits or the lower-order 64 bits of the IPv6 address (that is included in the echoed message) against the database. Therefore, Reuss neither discloses nor suggests the Applicant's claimed feature of "determining the host address of the terminal apparatus acquired before shipment of the terminal apparatus to coincide with lower-order 64 bits of IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted signal and the network address of the second network acquired from the database in accordance with the acquired owner information to coincide with higher-order 64 bits of IPv6 address acquired from the transmitted signal," as recited in Applicant's claim 16.

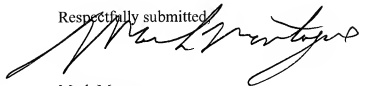
Therefore, Reuss does not disclose the above-described features of Applicant's claim 16. Hence, Applicant's amended claim 16, and Applicant's independent claim 20 since it discloses such features, and the dependent claims, thus patentably distinguish over Reuss.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application and claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: October 7, 2009

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Respectfully submitted,



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